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MAY HATCHERY REPORT

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Tuesday, June 24, 1941, by the National Broadcasting Company and associated stations of the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

Early in April, Secretary Wickard announced the Department's plan for increasing the production of certain foods---including eggs, poultry, and hogs. This week we're to have two reports from the Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture which will help us to know how much progress has been made in this food-for-defense program. Today we're to hear the highlights of the final chick hatchery report for the month of May and on Friday the semi-annual pig report. Today's report will be given by E. J. (Mike) Rowell. All right, Mike.

ROWELL:

More chicks were hatched by commercial hatcheries during May than ever before during that month. The estimate shows an output of 222 and a half million chicks - that's about 50 million more than in May of last year. More chicks were hatched in all sections of the country, the largest increase was in the Pacific Coast States an increase of 56 percent.

The number of chicks hatched during the first five months of 1941 shows an increase of 125 million chicks - that's 19 percent over the number hatched the same five months of last year. The total, for January through May, is close to 800 million chicks. It is expected that by the end of June more chicks will have been hatched in six months of this year than were produced in the entire 12 months of 1940. So much for baby chicks.

On the basis of reports from our crop correspondents there was an increase of about 40 young chickens per farm flock on June 1 over last year. This was the largest increase for the month since 1936.

The number of eggs set during May was 41 percent larger than the number set during May of last year. And everything points to a large hatch during June. Just a word about turkey poults. Reports from 115 hatcheries showed 26 percent more turkey eggs set, and 7 percent fewer poults hatched during May than a year ago. Advance orders are considerably ahead of last year. By the way, the outlook for the poultry industry for the rest of this year is very favorable. The feed-egg ratio based on prices at Chicago is more favorable to egg producers than it was last year, and also more favorable than the 10-year average.

KADDERLY:

To sum up the hatchery report - commercial hatcheries turned out a fourth more chicks in May this year than in May last year - and set a new record for that month. More young chickens in farm flocks and more chicks on order for June delivery.

Again let me remind you that the semi-annual pig crop report will be given on Friday, National Farm and Home Hour.

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